

²Assessed proposed penalty of \$100,000 or more for safety and health violations.

³The GAO could not determine the parent company headquarters, but the location where the violation occurred is provided.

Source: General Accounting Office.●

LOUIS ELIAS, GABRIEL W. KASSAB, AND WILLIAM H. MORGAN—THE MARCH OF DIMES 1996 FAMILY OF THE YEAR

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on September 25, 1996, the March of Dimes will honor Elias Brothers Restaurants executives Louis Elias, Gabriel W. Kassab, and William H. Morgan as the recipients of the 1996 Family of the Year Award. Established in 1993, this award is presented annually to a family whose outstanding commitment and support of the March of Dimes deserves recognition. And without question, these three members of the Elias Brothers family are duly deserving of this honor.

Louis Elias, founder and chairman of the board of Elias Brothers Restaurants, has a distinguished past as a community servant. After 4 years as a city councilman, Mr. Elias served as mayor of Hazel Park from 1953 to 1961. He has also received the highest honor of knight commander in the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch and was also knighted into the most exclusive philanthropic organization in the world, the Knights of Malta, in December 1982.

Gabriel Kassab, president of Elias Brothers Restaurants, has for years dedicated his time and energies to helping others. He has served as a member of the executive board of the Detroit Council of the Boy Scouts of America, president of St. George Orthodox Church, president of the Michigan and National Restaurant Associations, and as a member of the advisory board of Southfield's Providence Hospital.

William Morgan, senior executive vice president of Elias Brothers Restaurants and Big Boy International, also has a distinguished list of public service efforts to his credit. He is past president of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and past chairman of the Rochester Crittenton Hospital Development Council. Mr. Morgan today sits on the executive board of the Michigan State University Development Council.

All three of these men have remained dedicated over the years to the generous support of the efforts of the March of Dimes. The Elias Brothers family has committed itself to the cause of preventing birth defects, and with the extraordinary contributions of Louis Elias, Gabriel Kassab, and William Morgan, our country has moved that much closer to the realization of this noble and important goal. On this special occasion, I offer my congratulations to each of these civic leaders and to the March of Dimes. I also offer my thanks, on behalf of the entire State of Michigan, for the countless number of children's lives they have touched.●

THE DRIVE-THROUGH DELIVERIES AMENDMENT

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to say how pleased I am that the Senate yesterday passed an amendment offered by my colleague, Senator BRADLEY, that will ensure that mothers and their newborn babies get appropriate care before being discharged from the hospital.

Senator BRADLEY's amendment would curb the alarming trend toward rushing new mothers and babies out of the hospital nearly immediately. Many health insurers are requiring new mothers and their newborn babies to be discharged from the hospital as early as 8 to 24 hours after delivery. This problem is particularly pressing and growing in the western United States, where 74 percent of the women who gave birth without complications were sent home within 24 hours of delivery, a sharp increase from the 54-percent figure in 1991. This trend toward shorter hospital stays is putting the health of babies and their mothers at risk.

Under Senator BRADLEY's amendment, insurance companies would be required to pay for a minimum 48-hour stay for mother and child for a vaginal delivery and a minimum 96-hour stay for a caesarean section. This is the amount of time that has long been recommended by medical profession guidelines, and this amendment is supported by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

I received a letter last year from a North Dakota grandmother whose infant grandson became seriously ill shortly after being quickly discharged from the hospital. Within hours of being sent home, these young parents had to rush their child back to the hospital with a 102-degree temperature. Fortunately, that little boy is now OK, but as you can imagine, this was a very frightening, and potentially life-threatening, experience.

I thought the questions this grandmother asked really got to the heart of this issue, and I want to read a bit of her letter. She wrote, "How much longer is the almighty dollar going to be the deciding factor in our children's lives? Since when do insurance company executives and accountants know more about life and death matters than medical people?"

Our country can no longer afford to let money, rather than the health needs of mothers and babies, be our paramount concern. Physicians and parents, not insurance bureaucrats, should be the ones deciding when mother and child are ready to go home.

We do need to control health care costs, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that providing high quality health care should be our top priority. And since one recent study has found that infants discharged less than 48 hours after delivery face a 70-percent higher chance that they will require an emergency room visit, which is one of the most expensive settings for care. I believe this amendment will actually

help reduce health care costs in the long run.

Again, I want to thank Senator BRADLEY for his leadership in bringing this issue to a vote, and I am glad to lend my support as a cosponsor to his effort.●

DR. RAYMOND M. CONTESTI—THE MARCH OF DIMES' 1996 ALEXANDER MACOMB CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on September 25, 1996 the March of Dimes will honor Clintondale Community School District Superintendent Dr. Raymond M. Contesti as its 1996 Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year. Established in 1984, this award is presented annually to "deserving individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and commitment to improving the quality of life in his/her community, the county, and the State of Michigan."

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a community servant more deserving of this recognition. In addition to his duties as superintendent, Dr. Contesti is currently president of the board of trustees of the Mount Clemens General Hospital, a member of the board of directors of M.C.G. Telesis, and a member of the Macomb/St. Clair Private Industry Council. In previous years he has held a number of civic posts within Clinton Township, including service on the board of trustees, zoning board of appeals, parks and recreation committee, Junior Chamber of Commerce, planning commission, civic center committee, and much more.

Dr. Contesti's dedication to public service has been recognized by numerous local institutions. In 1994, the Clinton Valley Boy Scouts named him their distinguished citizen of the year. In 1995, the M.C.G. Foundation named Dr. Contesti their citizen of the year.

Continuing in this trend, in 1996 Dr. Contesti will again be commended as citizen of the year, by an equally worthwhile institution, the March of Dimes. For his selfless commitment to his fellow citizens Raymond Contesti is more than deserving of the accolades that come his way. I salute him for his public service, and applaud the March of Dimes for choosing such a deserving figure on whom to bestow this honor.●

IN HONOR OF KITE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN WEEK

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to announce that this year the 18th annual Frank Motts Memorial Kite Festival will be held on September 14 in Milwaukee, WI. Kite flying is one of the most beautiful and relaxing hobbies around. Many of us can still remember when we were children, building our first kite and watching with excitement as it became airborne. Today children of all ages can experience this thrill again during Kite